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Cougars Complete Comeback In 89-76 Win Over Pirates

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Armstrong State University, "Cougars Complete Comeback In 89-76 Win Over Pirates" (2011). *Armstrong Men's Basketball News Archives*. 313.

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Cougars Complete Comeback In 89-76 Win Over Pirates





Posted: Feb 12, 2011

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Columbus State overcame a 19-point first-half deficit and shot 56 percent in the second half to come away with an 89-76 Peach Belt Conference men's basketball victory over host Armstrong Atlantic State University on Saturday afternoon in Savannah.

The Pirates (14-9, 8-7 PBC) come back to the pack and now are just a half game ahead of third in the PBC's East Division, but only a game ahead of fifth place - the top four make the PBC Championships. Columbus State (10-12, 6-7 PBC) is now just a half game out of the fourth spot in the PBC West.

Armstrong used a 22-2 run in the first half to build a 19-point lead, 39-20, with 3:47 left to go until halftime, but Columbus State was able to cut the lead to single digits, 46-37, at halftime after an Isaac Joyner layup with seven seconds left.

The Cougars took their first lead of the game on a three-pointer by Blake Zamudio with 8:05 remaining, putting Columbus State up, 68-66, then embarked on a 15-2 run over the next five and a half minutes to pull away from the Pirates.

"We came out too relaxed," Armstrong head men's basketball coach Jeremy Luther said. "We came back out and got a lead, but then let them come back at the end of the first half. In the second half, it looked like we had no fight, no passion and I was just disappointed in the effort."

Columbus State's Steve Peterson set a season high with 24 points on 9-of-16 shooting from the floor, including 5-of-8 three-pointers, while Jamarquis Steverson added 16 points and eight assists. Darius McKnight chipped in a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Chris Vanlandingham led a quartet of Pirates in double figures with 13 points, while **Keyshore Williams** and **Chris Edwards** each chipped in 12 points and **DeVon Jones** added 11.

"We get up and play great in the big games, but don't show the same sense of urgency when we play some of the lesser

teams in our league," Luther said. "We have the talent and the depth to play well with anyone."

Armstrong is next in action on Saturday, February 19, hosting USC Aiken for Senior Night and Homecoming at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Arena.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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